

ODD TRICKS OF MONKEYS.

They Keep Up the Interest of Those Who Care for Them.

"We lose interest in nearly all the animals," said the keeper to a New York Tribune man, "after we have had them awhile, except in the monkeys. The oldest keeper in the show will stop now and then to laugh at their antics. They're always inventing new tricks to play on one another. Their intelligence is wonderful and they show traces of conscience now and then. That big ape by himself over there came to Mr. Barnum with a story which I have no doubt is true. He was trained when we got him to do certain tricks by a wandering peddler who owned him in the east. This ape is an expert thief and one day he was going through his antics in a bazaar where a fruit merchant had a bag of dates open on the ground. The ape wanted some of those dates. He was too sly to look at them, but in his tumblings worked over toward them. Pretty soon he got into a position where the bag was between him and the merchant, who was squatting cross-legged on a mat upon the ground. With a leap the ape cleared the bag and came down between it and the merchant, close to the latter's face. Then he began to mow and mouth and scream at the man, showing his formidable teeth, staring him out of countenance, and making as if to attack him. The merchant was so astonished that he did not notice the ape helping himself to dates with his hind hands; apes are not four-footed, you know, they are quadrupeds, four-handed. Having taken all he could hold, the ape quickly turned his back on the merchant, stuffed the dates into his mouth, and was off in a jiffy. The crowd saw the theft and enjoyed it, and when they told the merchant he was so struck with the brute's cleverness that he showed no resentment. The ape, however, had got only a yard or so away in the crowd when a boy, out of pure mischief, struck him with a whip from behind. The ape turned about like a flash, dashed between the very legs of the boy who had struck him, passed two or three others without looking at them, and flew at the unoffending merchant, biting him two or three times before he could be restrained. The old thief had conscience enough to know that he had done wrong, and as soon as he felt the blow he took it for granted that the man he had robbed was beginning to give him the drubbing he knew he deserved. Some of our monkeys are very fond of being petted and admired and others are not," continued the keeper. "That little one over there is as vain as any woman, and a curious thing in connection with her is that her vanity makes her a poor mother. The last litter she had we took away from her; a former one she killed by neglect, after she had hurt two or three of them badly by holding them out to visitors to be stroked and petted also, and, in so doing, pressed them too hard against the bars of her cage. She thought her babies more lovely than all the rest, probably, and she wanted them to get some of the admiration and attention which she enjoyed herself."

Capt. Cable's Crew of Slaves.

The death of Capt. George W. Cable, one of the earliest of Missouri River steamboatmen, cuts the list of old-timers notably. He was 84 years old when he died. He had been master, mate, engineer, owner, and pilot. He was 23 when he began his career. In five years he was a licensed engineer. Three years later he was commissioned as a pilot from New Orleans to the Rocky Mountains and on the Upper Mississippi to St. Paul. As those were the days of magnificent salaries in the steamboating

business, Capt. Cable made a great deal of money by carefully investing the liberal pay that he received. It was not long until he became a steamboat owner in his own name. Of the famous boats of the forties and fifties that he owned the Edward Walsh, George Collier, Mary McDonald, and Luther Kennett were the largest and fastest. Later he was master and part owner of the John Aull, probably the fastest boat that ever cut the muddy waters of the Missouri River.

The crew of the Aull were negro slaves, the property of the boat management. When Capt. Cable was most prosperous he used to while away the evenings on the hurricane deck, throwing handfuls of silver half-dollars into the air, letting them fall in the fore-castle, where he could watch the crew scramble for them. Misfortune overtook him with the coming of the railroads. His boats and other property were swept away, leaving him in his old age poor in money and health, with only a memory of the brighter days to cheer him.

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